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ABSTRACT

Questionnaires on the Continuing Education Unit (CEU) were sent to representatives of all the member institutions of the National University Extension Association (NUEA) and the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE). From the 359 questionnaires distributed, responses were received from 216 institutions or branch campuses, a 60% return. Of these, 160 were from universities, 38 from colleges, and the remaining 18 from community colleges. Responses came from institutions in 47 states and the District of Columbia. Findings revealed that of those responding, 101, or 47%, already had adopted the CEU. The author assumes that over half of the institutions will be using the CEU during the 1975-76 academic year. Of those institutions located within the states included in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 86% have adopted the CEU. The summary of this report indicates that a steady increase in the adoption and use of the CEU by the member institutions of NUEA and ACHE can be readily documented by the responses to the questionnaire. While a projection of this trend would lead to the conclusion that nearly all institutions would be using the CEU within another five years, it must be noted that the institutions surveyed are those having significant continuing education or evening class programs and having full-time continuing education administrators. Thirty-four selected references on the CEU are included, and institutions awarding CEUs are listed. (WL)

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1975 STATUS REPORT ON THE CONTINUING EDUCATION UNIT

Survey Summary

The previous questionnaire used to obtain information for the National Task Force about the use of the continuing education unit (CEU) was distributed almost three years ago to those few institutions or individuals who had indicated some interest in the CEU. The 1975 survey was sent to representatives of all the member institutions of the National University Extension Association (NUEA) and the Association for Continuing Higher Education (ACHE). After duplications in the membership lists were eliminated, 359 questionnaires were distributed.

Responses were received from 216 institutions or branch campuses, a sixty percent return. Of these, 160 were from universities, 38 from colleges, and the remaining 18 from community colleges. Responses came from institutions in 47 states and the District of Columbia.

Institutions Using CEU. Of those responding, 101, or 47 percent, already have adopted the CEU, although in some institutions it has been adopted for use in only one division or school. Assuming that the 20 institutions that are now preparing proposals to adopt the CEU will succeed in having them adopted within the next few months, it is probable that over half of the institutions will be using the CEU during the 1975-76 academic year.

Of those institutions located within the states included in the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, 86 percent have adopted the CEU. This high acceptance is undoubtedly due to Standard Nine which requires member institutions to report noncredit continuing education in terms of CEU. Other regional accrediting associations have not yet adopted the standard and the result is a lower acceptance rate, 35 percent, in the rest of the country.

Among universities in the rest of the country, the acceptance rate is 45 percent, while only 9 percent of the colleges have accepted the CEU. Within the Southern Association, the percentages are 90 for universities and 67 for other colleges.

While colleges and universities in the Southern Association adopted the CEU very rapidly from 1972 to 1974, other areas of the country started adopting it more rapidly during the current school year, more than doubling the total number of the previous year. The right-hand column in the chart clearly indicates the steady, and even spectacular, increase in the number of institutions using the CEU during the four-year period since the pilot project was initiated during the 1970-71 academic year.

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INSTITUTIONS USING THE C.E.U.

Year CEU Adopted	Southern Association No. Adopting	Total	%	All Others No. Adopting	Total	%	Total No. Adopting	Total	%
	(N =50)			(N =166)			(N =216)		
1971-1972	2	2	4.0	6	6	3.6	8	8	3.7
1972-1973	17	19	38.0	10	16	9.6	27	35	16.2
1973-1974	13	32	64.0	11	27	16.3	24	59	27.3
1974-1975	11	43	86.0	31	58	34.9	42	101	46.8

In addition to the institutions included in the survey, respondents reported an additional 45 colleges specifically and suggested that at least 100 additional institutions within various state systems have adopted the CEU concept as a part of a state-wide plan. A list of institutions by state is attached. (Information concerning additions or corrections to be incorporated into this list will be appreciated.)

Records. CEU records are maintained by the continuing education or extension division or another academic department in 58 percent of the institutions reporting. It is interesting to note, however, that the percentage is 71 for schools outside the Southern Association but only 41 in the Southern area where the standards call for the records to be maintained by the registrar. The responses indicate that CEU records are more likely to be maintained by the registrar in smaller colleges and community colleges.

Almost 60 percent of the responding institutions use a computer in their record-keeping system. There seems to be no discernable difference in that pattern either because of institutional size or location.

A limited number of institutions reported on the number of individual CEU records that are currently on file. Of these, 20 reported less than 1000 records, 18 between 1000 and 5000 records, 4 over 5000, and 9 institutions reported having 20,000 or more individual CEU records currently in their files.

Of those responding to the question concerning the number of activities selected during the past year for the awarding of individual CEU, half reported less than 50 such activities, 16 percent reported 50 to 99, and another 18 percent reported between 100 and 149 activities. There were no responses between 150 and 200, but the remaining 16 percent reported that 200 activities or more were selected for the awarding of units to individual participants.

By analyzing the responses we were able to determine that the median group size in activities for which CEU were awarded was between 20 and 39, with 47 percent of the institutions falling into this category. There were 18 percent in the category of less than 20, and 22 percent between 40 and 59. The remaining 14 percent were divided evenly with 7% in the 60-79 category, and 7% in the above 80 group. Of the respondents to this section of the questionnaire, 51 reported on the basis of the number of "registrations" and only 9 on the basis of "unduplicated individuals," thus giving some indication of the possible difficulty in collecting data on non-credit activities on the basis of unduplicated individuals as has been the practice in reporting similar data for credit enrollments.

For the few institutions able to report the total number of CEU awarded during 1973-74, the median number of units awarded was between 2.0 and 3.0. The awarding of an average of less than 1.0 CEU was reported by 7 institutions, 13 reported from 1.0 to 1.9, another 9 indicated between 2.0 and 3.0, with a similar number falling between 3.0 and 4.9. There were 4 responses between 6.0 and 9.9 CEU, and the final 4 reported an average of more than 10.0 CEU awarded to each participant.

The reporting of CEU on an annual basis evidently has not yet become standard practice, since only 15 respondents indicated that reports were made in terms of CEU and 6 in terms of FTE. Of these, 12 indicated that the reporting was limited to the departmental level, with 8 each reporting at the institutional and/or state level, and 7 at the regional level.

Of the 102 institutions reporting the use of a specific classification system, 55, or more than half, opted for the USOE or a modification of the USOE or HEGIS system. There were 14 that reported using the Georgia system and another 14 used a statewide system. The NUEA-ACHE annual report categories were the basis for another 7 systems, with the remaining 12 using a variety of different classification systems for their noncredit activities.

Conclusions. The steady increase in the adoption and use of the CEU by the member institutions of NUEA and ACHE can be readily documented by the responses to the questionnaire. While a projection of this trend would lead to the conclusion that nearly all institutions would be using the CEU within another five years, it must be noted that the institutions surveyed are those having significant continuing education or evening class programs and having full-time continuing education administrators, and are, therefore, most likely to be in a situation where the use of the CEU can be helpful. Smaller colleges, however, may be expected to look to these institutions for leadership and to consider seriously following the directions pointed by their colleagues.

The information reported relative to record keeping must be considered inconclusive as to trend, but is interesting as an indication of the present situation within these institutions.

Comments to the National Task Force. Several issues were mentioned in the comments made under this heading. Selected and representative comments are listed here without discussion. We can only say that these will be brought to the attention of the Task Force for consideration in the near future.

"Implementation has been slow but we are now moving with dispatch."

"We could really use identified technical consultants with experience in implementation."

"It would be helpful if information regarding the CEU would be communicated to presidents, vice presidents and chancellors of institutions."

"An exchange of institutional plans of implementation would be helpful."

"A critical issue is maintaining the established standards for the CEU."

"I believe that only colleges and universities should use the CEU."

"If at all possible keep from using CEU as a funding basis."

"We are striving for a quality level that will be meaningful to the participant."

"Further education of business and industry, particularly national companies, as to the value of CEU's would be helpful."

"I still need convincing that the CEU is anything more than a gimmick."

"It is our feeling that these should be offered for professional areas and not for broad liberal education programs."

"Don't get CEU tied up in long involved HEGIS reports."

"Alternative choice of offering CEU and credit for the same program should be questioned."

Keith E. Glancy
The Johns Hopkins University
April 4, 1975

Institutions and Organizations Reported to be Awarding CEU

Institutions listed that reported using the CEU have not necessarily adopted the CEU for the institution; it may be in use in only one division. Those institutions and organizations designated with an asterisk (*) were reported to be using the CEU by respondents to the questionnaire. In some instances, separate branch campuses of one institution reported adopting the CEU. The number of campuses is indicated by a number in parenthesis following the institution name.

Alabama
University of Alabama (2)
Auburn University
University of South Alabama
Troy State University
*Most of 4-year institutions and junior colleges
*Alabama State Nurses' Association

Arizona
*Arizona State Nurses' Association

California
University of California - Irvine
University of California - Los Angeles
University of California - Riverside
University of California - Santa Barbara
University of California - Santa Cruz
*The California State University and College System is currently developing plans for utilizing the CEU within the continuing education programs of the system's 19 institutions.

Colorado
University of Colorado
Colorado State University

Connecticut
University of Connecticut
*Fairfield University

Delaware
University of Delaware
*Brandywine College
*Goldey Beacon College
*Wilmington College
*Marshalltown-McKean Evening College
*Milford Adult Education Association
*New Castle County Vocation-Technical School
*Alexis I. duPont Continuing Education Program

District of Columbia
American University
U.S.D.A. Graduate School

Florida
University of Florida
Florida A & M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida International University
Florida State University
University of Miami
University of North Florida
Pensacola Junior College
University of South Florida
*University of West Florida
*All public college-level institutions
*Florida State Nurses' Association

Georgia
DeKalb Community College
University of Georgia
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern College
Georgia State University
*All colleges and universities in the University System of Georgia

Idaho
University of Idaho
*Idaho State Nurses' Association

Illinois
Bradley University
Northern Illinois University
Southern Illinois University
Western Illinois University
*A suggested Illinois statewide plan is now being formulated
*Illinois State Nurses' Association

Indiana
Ball State University
University of Evansville
Indiana University
Purdue University
*Vincennes University
*Indiana State Nurses' Association

Iowa
University of Iowa
*St. Ambrose College
*Area I Community College - Calmar
*Area II Community College - Mason City
*Area III Community College - Esterville
*Area IV Community College - Sheldon
*Area V Community College - Ft. Dodge
*Area VI Community College - Marshalltown
*Area VII Community College - Waterloo
*Area IX Community College - Davenport
*Area XV Community College - Ottumwa
*Iowa Nurses' Association

Kansas
University of Kansas
Wichita State University

Kentucky
University of Kentucky
Thomas More College
*Eastern Kentucky State University
*Kentucky State University
*University of Louisville
*Morehead State University
*Murray State University
*Western Kentucky State University
*University of Kentucky Community College System
*Kentucky Nurses' Association

Louisiana
Delgado Junior College
Louisiana State University (2)
*Members of Louisiana State University System

Maine
University of Maine
*St. Joseph's College
*Maine State Nurses' Association

Maryland
Community College of Baltimore
Johns Hopkins University
*Catonsville Community College
*Essex Community College
*University of Maryland School of Nursing
*Maryland State Nurses' Association

Massachusetts
Boston College
*Mental Health Continuing Education Consortium

Michigan
University of Michigan
Michigan State University
Northern Michigan University
Oakland University
Western Michigan University

Minnesota
University of Minnesota
*Sister Kinney Institute

Missouri
University of Missouri (2)
Saint Louis University
Washington University
*Missouri State Dietitians' Association

Nebraska
*Chadron State College
*University of Nebraska Medical Center - Omaha
*Concordia Teachers College
*Central Nebraska Community College
*Southeast Nebraska Community College

New Hampshire
University of New Hampshire
*Keene State College
*Plymouth State College

New Jersey
Rutgers University
Trenton State College
*Educational Testing Service
*New Jersey Nurses' Association

New York
C.W. Post College, Long Island University
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
Rochester Institute of Technology
State University of New York at Buffalo
*American Management Associations
*American Society for Medical Technologists
*New York State Nurses' Association

North Carolina
Appalachian State University
East Carolina University
North Carolina State University
*North Carolina Community Colleges and Technical Institutes (58 in system)
*North Carolina State Board of Education
*North Carolina Nurses' Association

North Dakota
University of North Dakota

Ohio
University of Akron
University of Cincinnati
John Carroll University
Ohio State University
Wright State Universkty
Youngstown State University
*Cleveland State University
*Ohio Dominican College
*Ohio State Nurses' Association
*American Society for Personnel Administration
*Gilford Associate Continuing Education Program

Oklahoma
University of Oklahoma
*Bethany Nazarene College

Oregon
Oregon State System of Higher Education

Rhode Island
*Rhode Island Junior College

South Carolina
*Clemson University
*South Carolina Vocational-Technical Schools

South Dakota
*A Task Force has met to start drawing up a state plan

Tennessee
Memphis State University
University of Tennessee (5)
Tennessee Technical University
*Shelby State Community College
*Tennessee Community College

Texas
Baylor University
East Texas State University
University of Houston
Texas A. & M. University
Texas Tech. University
*Houston Baptist College
*Rice University
*Richland College
*South Plains College
*Texas Western College
*Alvin Junior College
*Amarillo Community College
*Houston Community College
*Odessa Community College
*Texas Dental Society
*Houston Nursing Home Association

Utah
Brigham Young University
*Utah State Nurses' Association

Virginia
Christopher Newport College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Military Institute
Virginia State College
Virginia Tech. University
*Reynolds Community College
*John Tyler Community College
*Petersburg General Hospital School of Nursing

Washington
*Washington State Board of Pharmacy

West Virginia
West Virginia University
*Union Carbide Technical Center
*Board of Regents has aurhorized all public institutions of higher education to establish CEU system.

Wisconsin
*University of Wisconsin

Wyoming
University of Wyoming
*Western Wyoming Community College

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